

Message Text

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44

ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /185 W
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O R 191842Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0533

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02715

DEPT PLEASE PASS STR FOR MALMGREN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EC, US, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 31587; B. MALMGREN-SCHIFFMAN TELCON

1. ECONOMICS COUNSELLOR CALLED ON ECONOMICS MINISTRY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG AND OFFICE DIRECTOR KUEHN
AND MADE THE POINTS OUTLINED IN REF A. DURING OUR
PRESENTATION, WE STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR THE FRG TO
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MAKE A POSITIVE INDICATION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EC OFFER.

2. FRAU STEEG NOTED THAT XXIV:6 WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY'S MEETING AND SHE ARGUED THAT AT PRESENT THE 113 COMMITTEE HAD NO MANDATE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. SHE STRESSED THAT THE EC WAS NOW BOUND BY THE COUNCIL MANDATE WHICH COULD NOT BE CHANGED UNTIL THE COMMISSION HAD SUBMITTED A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE THIRD COUNTRIES INVOLVED. SHE SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF XXIV:6 WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COME UP DURING THE DINNER AFTER THE MEETING BUT SHE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH, WHO ARE THE REAL PROBLEM, MAY BOYCOTT THIS DINNER.

3. WE REITERATED OUR ARGUMENTS ON THE TIME PRESSURE INVOLVED AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT AT WEDNESDAY'S DISCUSSIONS. FRAU STEEG RESPONDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE FRENCH INTRANSIGENCE AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY MEETING IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY A LITTLE MORE TIME AND NOT TRY TO FORCE THE ISSUE. SHE SAID "THAT TOO MUCH SPEED MIGHT KILL THE WHOLE THING" AND STATED FLATLY THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT ANY IMPROVEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE BY MID-MARCH. KUEHN NOTED, WITH FRAU STEEG ASSENTING, THAT THE BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR WOULD BE A RESTATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION ON GRAINS ROLLOVER AND A SMALL NUMBER OF COSMETIC CONCESSIONS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

4. AFTER REF B, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR SPOKE AGAIN WITH MR. KUEHN AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO A POSITIVE SHOW OF FLEXIBILITY ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC ITEMS. WE NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DEMONSTRATE SUCH FLEXIBILITY AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FRG ALSO SHOW THAT IT TOO WAS PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US. KUEHN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT BUT HE MADE NO COMMITMENT.

5. COMMENT: GERMAN POSITION, AS EXPRESSED BY FRAU STEEG AND HERR KUEHN, SEEMS TO HAVE HARDENED SINCE
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THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. THIS CHANGE IN ATTITUDE COULD REFLECT THE FRG'S SENSITIVITY ABOUT TAKING ANY STEPS WHICH WOULD TEND TO ISOLATE THE FRENCH IN THE COMMUNITY EVEN MORE THAN THEY ARE NOW.
HILLENBRAND

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